

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<https://akfrta.webstarts.com/announcements>

June 2024

Noel Wien Library's GRAND RE-OPENING Saturday, June 1, at 10 a.m.

May 2024

FRTA is pleased to announce that **Lori Mertes** is our "Sunshine" Committee chair. Thanks Lori.

Really Free Market-Ultimate freecycling event. Everything is FREE. **On May 18, 2024, 8am to 10am Bring Items** that are clean, safe, and usable to the parking lot adjacent to the Lola Tilly Commons of UAF campus. Volunteers there to help unload your car.

At 10am THE MARKET OPENS and will run **for one hour, 1 hour**, during which time folks help themselves to anything that has been donated.

AlaskaCare Town Hall is Thursday, May 16, 2024 beginning at 10am

April 2024

April's AlaskaCare Retiree Health Newsletter has some good articles: such as How to Give a Family Member or Caregiver Permission to call Medicare on your behalf and Preventive Care Benefits. Check it out.

Senior Recognition Day Register NOW! March 22nd closes April 22nd
May 9, 2024 Carlson Center 10am-1pm **Registration is required.**
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation

https://fairbanksak.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30368

[TRS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#)

Senate bill 178 Would establish the first Tuesday of September as the earliest a state school could begin classes. Introduced by Sen. Jesse Bjorkman, R-Nikiski

December 2023

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IRMAA Request for Reimbursement from Alaska DR&B

<https://drb.alaska.gov/retiree/healthplans.html> - retireeirmaa

November 2023

November is our IRMAA month, be looking for the Social Security letter.

<https://drb.alaska.gov/retiree/healthplans.html#retireeirmaa>

Our AlaskaCare Retiree Health Newsletter, Volume 62 | November 2023 does a very nice job of explaining the process.

Retiree newsletters are sent electronically to Health Plan members that **HAVE SUBSCRIBED to receive** updates. The AlaskaCare Retiree Health Newsletter is sent out each month providing us with updates about the Health Plan, and information about health events and resources.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOA/bulletins/36549b5>
address of the AlaskaCare Retiree Newsletter

Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board

Recommends the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit retiree health plan:

Increasing the Lifetime Maximum to \$8 Million **Approved takes effect January 1, 2024**

Supplemental to: The addition of an optional Supplemental Non-Emergent Surgery and Travel Benefits program

Supplemental to: The addition of an optional Virtual Physical Therapy and Musculoskeletal Care Support Program

Resolutions: <https://drb.alaska.gov/events/rhpab/#resolutions>

**Defined Contribution Retiree Health Plan Premiums
2023 compared to 2024 (follows on page 2)**

Defined Contribution Retiree Health Plan Premiums

RETIREE AND SPOUSE (IF APPLICABLE) ARE MEDICARE AGE ELIGIBLE		
Coverage Level	2023 Monthly Premium	2024 Monthly Premium
Retiree Only	\$320.79	\$320.79
Retiree and Spouse	\$641.58	\$641.58
Retiree and Child(ren)	\$849.66	\$849.66
Retiree and Family	\$1,170.45	\$1,170.45
RETIREE AND SPOUSE (IF APPLICABLE) ARE NOT MEDICARE AGE ELIGIBLE		
Coverage Level	2023 Monthly Premium	2024 Monthly Premium
Retiree Only	\$1,094.46	\$1,094.46
Retiree and Spouse	\$2,188.92	\$2,188.92
Retiree and Child(ren)	\$1,623.84	\$1,623.84
Retiree and Family	\$2,718.30	\$2,718.30
WHEN ONLY THE RETIREE OR THE SPOUSE IS MEDICARE AGE ELIGIBLE		
Coverage Level	2023 Monthly Premium	2024 Monthly Premium
Retiree and Spouse	\$1,415.25	\$1,415.25
Retiree and Family	\$1,944.12	\$1,944.12

Effective: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024

October 2023

Open Enrollment for DVA plan will open October 11, 2023 till November 22, 2023

This is your opportunity to review your DVA coverage and make benefit elections for the next plan year, which begins January 1, 2024. Retiree DVA has 2 coverage plans: **STANDARD** (from 2014 forward) and the **LEGACY** (before 2014). If you have been satisfied with your Dental plan you don't need to do anything. Three sites you might be interested in:

AlaskaCare Retiree DVA 2024 Dental Benefit Comparison
<https://drb.alaska.gov/docs/materials/DVAComparison.pdf>

AlaskaCare Retiree 2024 Dental Benefit Enrollment Guide
<https://drb.alaska.gov/docs/materials/DVAGuide.pdf>

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AlaskaCare Retiree Health Plan 2024 Dental Benefit Out of Network Cost Comparison
<https://drb.alaska.gov/docs/materials/2024DVANetworkComparisonRetiree.pdf>

If you are not a current Retiree DVA plan member, you are not eligible to participate.

Last meeting a member mentioned Medicare Part D – I read from the States Retiree website: “If you are currently eligible for Medicare, or when you become eligible for Medicare, you will be automatically enrolled in the AlaskaCare EGWP plan (**a group Medicare Part D plan**) by the Division of Retirement and Benefits. You do not need to enroll as an individual in Medicare Part D Plan.” Using the following link under title **Medicare** click on **the 2nd question**: “Do I need to get Medicare part D?”
<https://drb.alaska.gov/help/faqs.html - retireedb03>

September 2023:

A New In-Network Provider in Fairbanks is: Revive Medical Spa, LLC (listed in the August 2023 AKCare Retiree Health Newsletter)

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOA/bulletins/36d9a52#MIO>

Department of Retirement & Benefit (DR&B) is still working with the AK Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board (RHPAB) to review the following proposed updates to the AlaskaCare Defined Benefit Retiree Health Plan.

- *Update to Lifetime Benefit Maximum
- *Addition of Supplemental Non-Emergent Surgery and travel Benefits
- *Addition of Virtual Physical Therapy and Musculoskeletal Care

For Proposal & Summaries go to this website:

<https://drb.alaska.gov/news/2023/0512-notice.html>

Medicare—Expanded from August

Medicare new drug cost lower, beginning 2026—

Medicare drug price negotiation will result in lower out-of-pocket costs for seniors and will save money for American taxpayers. **Negotiations** for the first group of

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selected drugs **will begin in 2023**, with negotiated **prices going into effect in 2026**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/29/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ten-drugs-selected-for-medicare-price-negotiation/>

Eliquis, prevention and treatment of blood clots

Jardiance, Diabetes: Heart failure

Xarelto, Prevention and treatment of blood clots; Reduction of risk for patients with coronary or peripheral artery disease

Januvia, Diabetes

Farxiga, Diabetes; Heart failure; Chronic kidney disease

Entresto, Heart failure

Enbrel, Rheumatoid arthritis; Psoriasis; Psoriatic arthritis

Imbruvica, Blood cancers

Stelara, Psoriasis; Psoriatic arthritis; Crohn's disease; Ulcerative colitis

Fiasp; Fiasp FlexTouch; Fiasp PenFill; Novolog; NovoLog PenFill, Diabetes

These ten drugs are among those with highest total spending in Medicare Part D. Millions of Part D enrollees depend on these vital treatments to treat life-threatening conditions including diabetes, heart failure, and cancer, but many struggle to access their medications because of prohibitive costs.